

Today's News - Thursday, November 18, 2010

- A great report from Harvard Graduate School of Design conference pulls all the pieces together re: the ongoing New Urbanism vs. Landscape Urbanism debate (while a serious discussion, it's still been such fun to follow; and - no surprise - Sorkin nails it).
- Walters outlines the 7 biggest challenges in merging design and business: "Design graduates emerge from school without the skills necessary to thrive in the real world" and find that they're "stuck between a rock and a hard place."
- Madrid-based IE University hopes to change that by teaming up with the U.K.'s RSA and NLA to launch what they're calling the "world's first business of architecture degree."
- Seoul is taking its commitment to design seriously by teaming with UNESCO to open a design academy next year.
- Taiwan's Ministry of Education also gets design fever, granting a pretty penny to NCKU to improve architectural education.
- With its artificial islands "sinking in the mire," will Dubai get serious about its "new environmental woes that come with 'progress'?" (some say yes).
- Chinese plans to create a city in Athlone, Ireland, are "advancing stealthily," and have been "met with delight and disbelief": "Some people's attitude is we'll believe it when we see it. It's that big" (image but sadly no mention of who planned/designed it).
- 2010 Green Building Survey released: a "whopping 77% of corporate executives...say they would find tax incentives the most beneficial among enticements for retrofitting green buildings."
- Passive House program finally gaining momentum in U.S. by architects who "think outside the boxy." (greetings to all our friends at Greenbuild, too!)
- A fascinating 5-part report on Japan's urban landscape, its aesthetics, and its future.
- Glancey on final designs for London's 8 Crossrail stations by British architects and engineers "with a solid track record": they appear "to be sober, robust and calmly elegant... free from fashion or whimsy."
- King cheers housing projects in San Francisco re-envisioning new neighborhoods.
- Litt show us Corner's CWRU/MOCA plaza plans meant to tie neighborhoods together.
- Finnish firm that won big at the Shanghai Expo snags new project in Helsinki.
- Lange's Q&A with WORKac's Wood re: design, food and cities, and "rurbanization."
- Brussat's keynote at ICA&CA's Bulfinch Awards: there are indications that Bulfinch may not have to spin in his grave forever.
- Winnipeg picks 5 cool designs for new warming huts along the city's river trail (once the river freezes, of course).
- Two we couldn't resist: A most amusing (fictional) conversation between Ronald the architect and Paul the anthropologist re: why the Taj Mahal is better than the Pompidou Centre + Star Wars drawings made only with type (instructions included).

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GSD Throwdown: Battle for the Intellectual Territory of a Sustainable Urbanism: It is probably best that these two urbanisms are fighting to dominate intellectual territory of urban design, for both will be necessary to promote real sustainable solutions...."Let's make humane, equitable, sustainable and beautiful cities. Enough said? Any disagreements?" -- Andres Duany; Charles Waldheim; Alex Krieger; Pierre Bélanger; Michael Mehaffy; Michael Sorkin [links]- Urban Omnibus

The 7 Biggest Challenges in Merging Design and Business: Design has been democratized. But has it led to a wider understanding of the discipline?...Design graduates emerge from school without the skills necessary to thrive in the real world...Many of those who have been through some of the more rigorous programs within business or design schools...are finding that they're stuck between a rock and a hard place. By Helen Walters- Fast Company

World's first business of architecture degree launched: ...architectural masters degree combining design with management has been launched by IE University in Madrid in collaboration with the Royal College of Art and New London Architecture...Guest speakers will include architects from Foster & Partners, Zaha Hadid Architects, Snohetta, SOM, David Chipperfield Architects and Kristine Fallon. - BD/Building Design (UK)

Indulge in design city Seoul: Upgrading its beauty to a higher level and making the city more convenient are artful touches of sophisticated urban designs initiated by the city government...In cooperation with UNESCO, the city will open a design academy next year... -- Zaha Hadid; Mario Botta; Jean Nouvel; Rem Koolhaas/OMA- Korea Times

NCKU Chosen as Demonstration Department to Improve Architectural Education by Ministry of Education: Department of Architecture of National Cheng Kung University (NCKU), Tainan, Taiwan...will receive a subsidy of NT\$4,200,000 for 3 years...promised to seek more internationally renowned teachers...allowing students to have broader...international perspectives. - BusinessWire

A Turning Point for Serious Environmental Problems In Dubai: Artificial islands are sinking in the mire...has to face new environmental woes that come with "progress"....it is a thin line between sustainability and maintaining its status as a glitzy, skyscraper filled city...The question now..."is whether we can bridge development with sustainable practices. I think we can." - Green Prophet (Middle East)

Welcome to Shanghai-on-Shannon: Chinese plans to create a city in Co Westmeath that will act as a trading hub for Europe have met with delight and disbelief in almost equal measure. But the project seems to be advancing stealthily..."Athlone would become a city, almost overnight..."Some people's attitude is we'll believe it when we see it. It's that big." [image]- Irish Times

NREI and Green Building Council Release Results of 2010 Green Building Survey: A whopping 77% of corporate executives...say they would find tax incentives the most beneficial among enticements for retrofitting green buildings. [link to survey]- National Real Estate Investor (NREI)

From Green Extreme to Mainstream: Passive House Program Gains Momentum in U.S.: ...the challenge has been taken up by architects who "think outside the boxy"....With the number of Passive House buildings in Europe exceeding the 17,000 mark, catching up may take some time. But given the growing urgency to address climate change and responsible energy management, this may be an idea whose time has come. -- Amory Lovins; Wolfgang Feist; Laura Briggs; Habitat for Humanity; Albert, Righter & Tittmann Architects- Architectural Record

Japan's Future Look: ...what the future might hold for Japan's urban landscape...it seems that while it'll continue to characteristically hold on to some elements of its treasured past, it is also moving quickly forward into a more green and sustainable future... -- Julian Worrall; Yoichi Kubota- The Diplomat (Japan)

Crossrail goes with the flow as London's mayor unveils designs for eight stations: British architects and engineers have shaped calm, elegant and free-flowing spaces...at long last...the £16bn mainline railway linking far-flung east and west London suburbs...is finally on its metalled march. By Jonathan Glancey -- Gillespies; Scott Wilson; Aedas; Burns & Nice; Foster & Partners; Canary Wharf Group; Arup; Adamsons Associates; John McAslan; WSP; Wilkinson Eyre; Urban Initiatives; Mott MacDonald; Allies & Morrison; Atkins; Hawkins Brown; Atkins; BDP; Hyder [images]- Guardian (UK)

SF public housing re-envisioned new neighborhoods: ...Hunters View housing project is as ambitious as any development being pursued in today's San Francisco...shows the progress made in shaping neighborhoods for society's neediest

residents but also highlights how challenging it will be...to rebuild its aged housing projects into inclusive, attractive pieces of the city. By John King -- Solomon Design Partners; GLS Landscape Architecture; Van Meter Williams Pollack [images]- San Francisco Chronicle

Uptown plaza design to be unveiled today by Case Western Reserve University and Museum of Contemporary Art Cleveland: ...is proposing a simple, flexible and partially tree-shaded plaza, which will wrap around the MOCA building... By Steven Litt -- James Corner Field Operations; Farshid Moussavi/Foreign Office Architects (FOA)- Cleveland Plain Dealer

Etera and Alma Media office building project in Helsinki, Finland: The winner of the architectural competition...is JKMM Architects...won award for Finnish Pavilion called "The Giant's Kettle" at the Shanghai Expo...The City plans to develop the Töölönlahti Bay area into a centre of cultural activity... [image]- Construction and Maintenance (Russia)

Interview: Dan Wood: A conversation with the WORKac architect about design, food and cities...and "rurbanization"...the first Edible Schoolyard New York with Alice Waters' Chez Panisse Foundation...opened in October at P.S. 216 in Gravesend, Brooklyn. By Alexandra Lange -- Amale Andraos [images, links]- Change Observer

Keynote speech at the first Bulfinch Awards: It's hard to know what Bulfinch would make of the way Boston looks today. We classicists are forced to imagine that he is spinning in his grave...there are indications that he may not have to spin forever. Why? Because we are here handing out awards to artists and architects whose work flies in the face of everything that conspires to spin [him] in his grave. By David Brussat -- ICA & CA- Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

Warming Hut Designs Unveiled at The Forks: Five new warming huts...will later be placed on the river trail once the waterway freezes over...three represent Philadelphia, New York and Tel Aviv... -- Patkau Architects; Noa Biran/Roy Talmon; Tri Nguyen/Jayne Chu/Ben Olschner/Jakob Seyboth; Robert B. Trempe Jr.; Lancelot Coar/University of Manitoba students [link to images]- ChrisD.ca (Winnipeg, Canada)

A Conspiracy of Friends: Ronald the architect tells Paul the anthropologist why the Taj Mahal is better than the Pompidou Centre...Anybody who attacks modern architecture is accused of ignorance...Look at what happens to Prince Charles...But you know what? He's right. The buildings he criticises are ugly – they're brutal. But there are some pretty big egos in modern architecture... By Alexander McCall Smith- Telegraph-Journal (Canada)

Nerdgasm! Star Wars Drawings Made Only With Type: Who's dorkier: Star Wars fans or type nerds? It's probably a toss-up. -- H-57 Creative Station [images]- Fast Company

-- Santiago Calatrava: Museum of Tomorrow, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
-- Kimmel Eshkolot Architects: The Davidson Center, Jerusalem, Israel

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